

DANVILLE

STORIES, CRAFTS, MUSIC FILL AIR FOR HOBBIT DAY



CITY OF DANVILLE PHOTOS, CONTRIBUTED



Danville Parks and Recreation brought Shire-sized adventures to Riverfront Park earlier this month for Hobbit Day. Originally set for Sept. 22, weather pushed the event back about a month to Oct. 9. J.R.R. Tolkien’s novels introduced the fictional short characters in “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings.” At the Danville event, guests enjoyed story time, crafts, live music, games and a fire pit.

Guests share memories of Black history at exhibit

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

In many cases, the Black history of Danville is fading fast. Old buildings that served as landmarks are coming down. Entire neighborhood communities have vanished. Searching for historical facts is hard. Many times it wasn’t written. Fred Motley, a Danville storyteller, said it’s like a photograph in someone’s mind. “We have it because we live there,” he told the Register & Bee. But unless someone describes it, others can’t see it. On a mission to change that, Motley

staged an event over two weekends this month to bring people together to share memories before they are gone forever. It started as a way to celebrate Danville native Camilla Williams, who was the first Black person to receive a contract with a major American opera company. She was born on Oct. 18, 1919. Motley wanted to keep her name to the forefront, but also wanted to highlight others from Danville who have somehow slipped under the radar. Motley’s “Higher Ground” exhibit at a space on Craghead Street featured photos and artifacts of Black history in Danville.

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CHARLES WILBORN, REGISTER & BEE
Larry Pinchback names players in a photo Sunday at the Higher Group exhibit in downtown Danville.